

Japan's main road sign quick reference



Understanding the meaning of signs so you have a safe and enjoyable drive trip
















Road sign guide the directions to drivers, alert them to drive safely and let you know what rules to follow. Driving ignoring the traffic rules leads to traffic accidents. Follow the traffic rules to have secure and safe driving trips.

Regulatory signs









 <p>Road closed to all All of pedestrians / Vehicles / Trams are not allowed to pass.</p>	 <p>Road Closed to Vehicles Vehicles (Vehicles / Small motor vehicles / Light Vehicles) are not allowed to pass.</p>
 <p>No parking or stopping Vehicles are not allowed to stand and park. (The numbers above indicate the time of prohibition, in this case it's from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm)</p>	 <p>No parking Vehicles are not allowed to park. (The numbers above indicate the time of prohibition, in this case it's from 8:00am to 8:00pm)</p>
 <p>Stop The vehicles must pause just before the stop line. When there is no stop line, you must pause before the intersection (sign).</p>	 <p>Slow Vehicles must drive slowly (a speed in which a vehicle stopped immediately).</p>
 <p>Maximum speed limit Vehicles may not drive faster than indicated.</p>	 <p>Minimum speed limit Vehicles may not drive slower than indicated.</p>
 <p>No vehicles Vehicles are now allowed to enter. (It is often seen at one way exits)</p>	 <p>No right turn crossing ahead Vehicles are not allowed to cross the road. (Vehicles can cross the road with a left turn to enter and exit facilities outside the road)</p>
 <p>No U-turn Vehicles are not allowed to perform a U-turn.</p>	 <p>No overtaking Vehicles are not allowed to overtake.</p>
 <p>Directions permitted Vehicles may not go beyond the direction of the arrows.</p>	
  <p>One way Vehicles must follow the direction indicated by the arrow. Travelling the opposite direction is not allowed.</p>	 <p>Dedicated traffic zone It is a dedicated traffic zone for vehicle types displayed on the sign. (In this case, it is dedicated zone for buses)</p>

Warning signs





Warning signs in Japan are diamond shape

 <p>Slippery road It indicates that the road ahead is slippery due to freezing etc.</p>	 <p>Falling rocks It indicates that there is a risk of falling rocks on the road ahead.</p>	 <p>Bumpy road It indicates that there are bumps on the road surface ahead.</p>
 <p>Roadworks It indicates the road is under roadwork.</p>	 <p>Steep ascent It indicates that there is a steep ascent ahead.</p>	 <p>Steep descent It indicates that there is a steep descent ahead.</p>
 <p>School zone It indicates that there is a school, kindergarten and nursery school ahead.</p>	 <p>Traffic light ahead It indicates that there is a traffic light ahead.</p>	 <p>Traffic merges (from the left) It indicates that there is merging traffic ahead.</p>
 <p>Left lane ends It indicates the number of lanes decreases ahead.</p>	 <p>Road narrows on both sides It indicates that the road width becomes narrower ahead.</p>	 <p>Two-way traffic ahead It indicates that there is two-way traffic.</p>
 <p>Railroad crossing ahead It indicates that there is a railroad crossing ahead.</p>	 <p>Beware of cross winds It indicates there is a risk for crosswinds.</p>	 <p>Beware of animals It indicates that animals may jump out onto the road.</p>

Indication signs

 <p>Parking allowed Vehicles are permitted to park.</p>	 <p>Stopping allowed It indicates that vehicles are permitted to stand.</p>	 <p>Preferred road It indicates the signpost road is the preferred road.</p>
 <p>Center line It indicates that the position of the sign is the center of the road or the center line.</p>	 <p>Stopping Line It indicates that the position of the sign is the position where the car must stop.</p>	 <p>Safety zone It indicates it is a pedestrian safe zone, and vehicles are not allowed to enter.</p>
 <p>Crosswalk It indicates there is crosswalk ahead.</p>	 <p>Bicycle crossing lane It indicates it is bicycle crossing zone.</p>	

Informatory signs

 <p>It indicates the direction of the motorway entrance.</p>	 <p>It indicates number of Japan's National Routes.</p>	 <p>It indicates directions and towards.</p>	 <p>Emergency telephone</p>
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